

Message Text

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67

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SUBJECT: "PRG" AND PLAF ISSUE VICTORY STATEMENTS

1. THE SO-CALLED PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM ("PRG") AND ITS SOUTH VIETNAM PEOPLE LIBERATION ARMED FORCES (PLAF) COMMAND ISSUED OFFICIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 21 AND 20 RESPECTIVELY, PROCLAIMING "GREAT VICTORIES" IN THE PREVIOUS 15 DAYS. BOTH TOOK THE NOW-STANDARD LINE THAT THE RECENT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IS A COMBINATION OF POPULAR "UPRISINGS" AND "ARMED ATTACKS" BY THE PLAF INTENDED TO "PUNISH" THE GVN AND U.S. WHILE BOTH STATEMENTS PREDICTED "FINAL VICTORY", THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS OF SPECIFIC FURTHER TARGETS IN THE PRESENT OFFENSIVE.

2. THE PLAF COMMAND COMMUNIQUE CLAIMED TO HAVE "COMPLETELY LIBERATED" FIVE PROVINCES (KONTUM, PLEIKU, DARLAC, PHU BON, QUANG TRI), INCLUDING ALL PROVINCIAL CAPITALS AND 13 DISTRICT TOWN, AND SEVEN OTHER DISTRICT TOWNS IN FIVE OTHER PROVINCES. IN A CHRONOLOGY OF THE FIGHTING, THE COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT ON MARCH 5 IT HAD LAID "A SNARE FOR THE SAIGON ARMY" BY CUTTING

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HIGHLAND ROADS, ATTACKED AND "TOOK COMPLETE CONTROL" OF BAN

ME THUOT BY MARCH 12, AND WHEN "FRIGHTENED" GVN TROOPS "TOOK TO FLIGHT;" "LIBERATED THE WHOLE OF THE IMMENSE HIGH PLATEAU " BY MARCH 19. MEANWHILE, IT SAID, QUANG TRI CITY AND SEVERAL DISTRICT TOWNS WERE "OCCUPIED" IN THE PLAINS OF CENTRAL VIETNAM, VC TRI-THIEN-HUE AND EASTERN NAM BO, AND "VARIOUS HAMLETS, VILLAGES AND MILITARY SUBSECTORS" WERE "ATTACKED" IN THE MEKONG DELTA.

3. THE COMMUNIQUE COMMENDED THE "VICTORIOUS UNITS AND THE PEOPLE" FOR THEIR "UNITY;" DENOUNCED "U.S. IMPERIALISM AND ITS HENCHMEN" FOR "THEIR EFFORTS TO CONTINUE THE NEO-COLONIALIST WAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM, JEOPARDIZE THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND PROLONG THE PARTITION OF OUR COUNTRY;" CLAIMED THAT "OUR ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE ARE STRONGER THAN EVER;" URGED "ALL THE (PLAF) OFFICERS AND MEN TO JOIN THE PEOPLE IN THEIR OFFENSIVE AND UPRISING TO WIN MANY MORE VICTORIES;" AND CALLED ON GVN TROOPS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES, "NOW THAT THEY CAN SEE THE JUSTICE OF REVOLUTION AND THE INEVITABLE DEFEAT OF U.S. IMPERIALISM AND ITS FLUNKIES, TO RALLY TO THE PEOPLE AS SOON AS THEY CAN".

4. THE "PRG" STATEMENT, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING DAY, CLAIMED ITS FOLLOWERS HAD WON "VERY GREAT AND STRATEGICALLY SIGNIFICANT VICTORIES" WHICH "MARK A VERY GLORIOUS NEW PHASE IN THE STRUGGLE." IT SAID IT HAD "REGAINED CONTROL OF SIX PROVINCES AND SIX CITIES," INCLUDING 13 DISTRICT TOWNS, "AND EIGHT OTHER DISTRICT CAPITALS" (THE DIFFERENCE WITH THE PLAF CLAIM IS NOT EXPLAINED), AND ANNOUNCED THAT "THE REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN SET UP IN ALL OF THE RECENTLY LIBERATED LOCALITIES." IN A PASSAGE THAT MAY INDICATE THE PECKING ORDER OF THE FIGHTING AS SEEN FROM "PRG" HEADQUARTERS, THE STATEMENT, HAVING DEALT WITH THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, PRAISED "THE ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE OF TAY NINH, BINH LONG, LONG KHANH, THE MEKONG DELTA PROVINCES, TRI THIEN, QUANG DA, QUANG NAM AND BINH DINH" FOR THEIR "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT VICTORIES."

5. MOST OF THE "PRG" STATEMENT, HOWEVER, WAS DEVOTED TO POL-
EMICS AGAINST THE U.S. AND GVN; CLAIMS THAT THE OFFENSIVE IS THE EXERCISE OF A "LEGITIMATE RIGHT OF ACTION -- THAT IS, THE RIGHT TO COUNTER-ATTACK AND PUNISH;" AND PROMISES OF FURTHER VICTORIES TO COME. THE STATEMENT CONTINUED THE CLAIM THAT THE
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GVN IS "FORCING" REFUGEES TO "EVACUATE WITH IT, WITH A VIEW TO CONTINUING TO PROLONG THE WAR." IT ALSO CALLED ON PEOPLE "TO STAY" AND "TO FLEE TO THE NEWLY LIBERATED AREAS." IN ONE OF ITS BOLDER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF DRV SUPPORT, THE "PRG" ADMITTED THAT "THESE VICTORIES ARE THE RESULT OF THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN OUR KITH AND KIN NORTHERNERS AND SOUTHERNERS."

6. THE STATEMENT REPEATED THE OCTOBER 8, 1974, SET OF PRECON-

DITIONS FOR THE REOPENING OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE GVN AND CONCLUDED THAT "THE PRESENT SITUATION PROVES THE
UNSTOPPABLE VICTORY OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE."
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